

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T STATE 012894

NODIS

FOL RPT ISLAMABAD 0554 ACTION SECSTATE 17 JAN 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 0554

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS2

TAGS: MNUC, PK, US, FR

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT

1. IT IS ELEVEN DAYS SINCE THE INITIAL STORY APPEARED IN LE MONDE SAYING THAT FRANCE HAD PROPOSED THAT THE PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT SHOULD BE A "CO-PROCESSING" RATHER THAN A PUREX PLANT. SUBSEQUENT AFP AND LE MONDE STORIES SEEM TO BE BASED ON GOF BACKGROUNDING, BUT WE HAVE SEEN NO DIRECT GOF STATEMENT. WE HAVE REPORTED WHAT WE HAVE SEEN OF THE LOCAL REACTION IN PAKISTAN.

2. IN ABSENCE OF ANY OFFICIAL USG WORD, AND EXTRAPOLATING FROM
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THESE PUBLIC SOURCES, I DRAW THE FOLLOWING TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS
ON WHICH DEPT AND PARIS WILL WISH TO COMMENT:

A. GOF STILL HOPES TO AVOID DOMESTIC POLITICAL DEBATE OVER
PAKISTANI REPROCESSING PLANT, AT LEAST UNTIL MARCH ELECTION.

B. GOF IS THEREFORE UNLIKELY TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT OF

REFUSAL TO SUPPLY ORIGINALLY CONTRACTED PUREX PLANT, OR TO SAY PUBLICLY THAT NO SHIPMENTS OF SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY HAVE BEEN MADE, OR WILL BE MADE, UNDER GLENN AMENDMENT TERMS.

C. IN FACT, IF PRESSED GOF MIGHT DECIDE TO ISSUE WAFFLING STATEMENT ABOUT ITS INTENTIONS, PERHAPS SAYING THAT MATTER IS STILL UNDER STUDY, THAT PAKISTANI VIEWS WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, AND THAT IN MEANTIME ORIGINAL CONTRACT IS BEING HONORED.

D. THUS PRIOR TO THE MARCH ELECTIONS (AND IF THE PRESENT GOVT LOSES OUT, NOT EVEN THEN) WE ARE NOT LIKELY TO GET FRENCH ACQUIESCENCE IN EXPLANATIONS TO CONGRESS THAT WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF FREEING UP NEW A.I.D. COMMITMENTS.

3. IN PAKISTAN WE ARE STILL ADHERING TO PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO DISCUSS FRENCH PROPOSAL WITH PAKISTANIS.

4. SHAH OF IRAN STILL SEEMS TO BE PLAYING GAMES WITH GOP ABOUT A POSSIBLE VISIT HERE IN CONNECTION WITH HIS VISIT TO INDIA. DEPT AND BILL SULLIVAN (WHO ALREADY KNOWS THE BACKGROUND) SHOULD WEIGH MERITS OF PRIMING SHAH WITH USG VIEWS ON FRENCH PROPOSAL SO THAT IF HE DOES VISIT HERE HE CAN WEIGH IN WITH GOP ALONG HELPFUL LINES HE HAS USED BEFORE. REALIZE SHAH MAY WELL PREFER TO SAVE HIS EXHORTATIONS FOR HIS COMMON MARKET SCHEME. ALSO WE HAVE FRENCH SENSITIVITIES TO WORRY ABOUT, BUT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO BRIEF THE SHAH ON THE BASIS OF THE RECENT NEWS STORIES WITHOUT VIOLATING SECRET

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CONFIDENTIALITY.

5. FRENCH AMB TO PAKISTAN IS IN PARIS ON CONSULTATION (PLANNED BEFORE THE NEWS LEAKS FROM PARIS) AND RETURNS TO ISLAMABAD OVER THE WEEKEND. I WILL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT FROM HIM NEXT WEEK.

6. DEPT PLEASE REPEAT THIS TO PARIS AND TEHRAN.
HUMMEL

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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